



January 22, 2020

To: The Faculty and Staff

From: Barry Pearson, Provost

Dear Colleagues:

In its 2019 [report](#), the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism (CSHE) at California State University, San Bernardino, stated that “hate crimes in 2019 will hit their highest level in the three largest cities since '01.” The same report details decade highs for Dallas and Sacramento, with Washington, DC likely to record an all time high.

The outlook for college campuses echoes this trend. The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) [recorded](#) more extremist advertising on college campuses in the spring of 2019 than ever before. The ADL “found 313 incidents involving white supremacist fliers, posters, and stickers used for recruiting on campuses from September 2018 through May 2019.” The same report cites a “77% rise in extremist messaging from the year prior” on college campuses nationwide.

While our campus is not invulnerable to white supremacist activities, the campaigns by extremist groups are counteracted directly and quickly. Why? I believe our faculty and staff inculcate an engaged campus culture that enlists each one of us in a shared responsibility for reacting against harassment or persecution.

Our use of engagement and reasoned discourse, however, stands in stark contrast to the dialogue we so often see play out in our political landscape. Consider for a moment that in a 993-day period, as measured by the *Washington Post's* fact checker, the President made 13,435 false or misleading claims about issues ranging from the economy to immigration to climate change.

In contrast, our campus traditions cultivate inquiry that asks of us all to think critically about important issues in our world today. In the arts, humanities, and sciences our students encounter and respond to an array of issues, presented by our faculty in context and with complexity. We sponsor lectures that promote exploration and civil debate. Our exhibitions and performances move us to more compassionate and empathetic perspectives.

Given that our culture sustains rich engagement across campus, how might we make our type of engagement more distinct and comprehensive? Given the number of knotty and difficult issues in need of coalitions to find equitable, long-term solutions—from climate change to economic and social justice—what are the opportunities to give greater identity to our justice-minded inquiry?

Thought about another way, have you ever heard students say, “Yeah, I really loved my general education program?” While specific classes often stand out for students, the overriding intention of GE is often lost on them. Opportunistically, then, could general education develop competencies that enable students to engage the world’s complex challenges in consideration of just solutions? If inquiry were motivated by equity and justice, how might students think about the importance of science or economics or statistical data? Would their writing be infused with distinct perspectives? Could their oral communication be more compelling, methodical and organized? Finally, why general education? It is the one place we serve *all* students.

Whatever our responses to these questions, other SUNY comprehensive colleges are also wrestling with similar questions about general education. I believe that the time is right to form an alliance of comprehensive colleges to advocate for a more innovative approach to general education grounded in critical thinking, empathy, and social justice. Ultimately, as we learn on our campus every day, our world is made safer, more equitable—and ultimately, more hopeful—when we engage with one another to build a collective sense of responsibility for our world's future.

Congratulations to the recipients of the Fall 2019 round of Awards:

Junior Faculty Development Awards

I am pleased to announce that we have five recipients of this year's JFD Leave award. The Awardees receive a semester's leave at full salary, during which time they are released from all teaching and service obligations to the college. These awards are, in effect, internal fellowships that provide an opportunity for junior, untenured faculty to concentrate exclusively on advancing or completing an important professional or scholarly project. Please join me in congratulating them!

2020-2021

- **Eric Gottesman**, Art+Design
- **Allyson Jackson**, NSS
- **Janine Polak**, Art+Design
- **Simon Surowicz**, Humanities
- **Ragnild Utheim**, Liberal Studies

Faculty Support Award

To fund research, academic travel and conference presentations, artistic endeavors, or other comparable professional activity.

- **Elliott Abrams**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Janis Astor del Valle**, Arts Management
- **David Bassuk**, Theatre Arts
- **Leandro Benmergui**, Humanities
- **Darrah Carr**, Dance
- **Laura Chmielewski**, Humanities
- **Larry Clark**, Dance
- **Rachel Dickstein**, Theatre Arts
- **Anthony Domesticco**, Humanities
- **Stella Ebner**, Art+Design
- **Lee Ehrman**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Kate Gilmore**, Art+Design
- **Yanine Hess**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Cassandra Hooper**, Art+Design
- **Sanford Ikeda**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Susan Kouguell**, Film & Media Studies
- **Julian Kreimer**, Art+Design and Humanities
- **Cynthia Lin**, Art+Design
- **Pete Malinverni**, Music
- **Shaka McGlotten**, Film & Media Studies
- **Gaura Narayan**, Humanities
- **Rosalind Newman**, Dance
- **Lenka Pichlikova**, Theatre Arts
- **Jason Pine**, Film & Media Studies
- **Pamela Prather**, Theatre Arts
- **Laura Ricciardi**, Arts Management
- **Paul Siegel**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Brooke Singer**, Art+Design
- **Robert Swainston**, Art+Design
- **Hakan Topal**, Film & Media Studies
- **Knarik Tunyan**, Natural & Social Sciences
- **Wallie Wolfgruber**, Dance
- **Raphael Zollinger**, Art+Design

Part Time Teaching Support Awards

To support a conference or workshop and/or support faculty research, artistic endeavor, or other comparable professional activity.

- **Bradley Ellis, Art+Design**

Reminders: Upcoming Spring Award Deadlines

- **February 10, 2020** (to your chair or director)
 - [Kempner and Leff Senior Faculty Research Award](#)
 - [Topol Faculty Development Summer Stipend](#)
 - [Emily and Eugene Grant Faculty Award](#)
- [Chancellor's Awards for Excellence](#): For all other categories, the deadline is **February 18, 2020**; the call for nominations will be issued by the respective peer review committee.

School of Natural & Social Sciences

Darwin Day Lecture Series: [The Next Generation of Phage Therapy in Human Health and Agriculture](#)



[Britt Koskella, PhD](#)

Assistant Professor of Disease Ecology and Evolution
University of California, Berkeley

Date: Thursday, February 13th at 4:30pm

Location: Lecture Hall, Room 1001, Natural Sciences Building

School of Film & Media Studies

Purchase College will be hosting the 10th Annual SUNY Wide Film Festival from April 17-19, 2020. Save the dates. For more details, please visit our [webpage](#).

Neuberger Museum Spring 2020

Please join us in celebrating the Neuberger Museum's Spring 2020 exhibitions. The event is free and open to the entire Purchase College community.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Spring 2020 Exhibitions Opening Reception

4:30pm - 7:00pm

Enjoy an evening with friends from campus and the surrounding community while browsing the galleries filled with incredible works from each of the Spring 2020 exhibitions; listening to live music; nibbling on light refreshments; and engaging in conversations with artists, curators, and fellow art lovers.

The event link with photo is here: <https://www.purchase.edu/live/events/19815-1>

PAC 2019-2020:

This is always an interesting time of year at The PAC. There is still more than half of the current season left to go, with incredible experiences in store — the Spotlight on Mexico series, the Gala featuring Black Violin, a world premiere of a new work from Doug Varone and Dancers, just to name a few — but Director Seth Soloway already has one foot in 2020-2021.

This is the time of year when plans for the coming season really start to solidify and Seth will be spending much of January on the road, seeing new work, meeting with artists and agents, and making sure The PAC continues to build on all the progress they've been making toward realizing their vision of being the place you think of when you want to be inspired, engaged, and entertained.

First up was a week in Manhattan for APAP — the largest annual Performing Arts Conference/ Festival in the U.S. — where Seth met with artists and agents and saw about 30 shows. He got to be in the room when RUBBERBAND presented *Ever So Slightly* to the world, a work that we here at Purchase helped to make happen. (You'll get to see at The PAC this spring, and more from RUBBERBAND in 2020-2021.) At the conference it was also announced that The PAC has commissioned Michelle Dorrance to complete her work on an updated version of the Ellington *Nutcracker*, which will be shown in the Concert Hall on December 12, 2020. These commissions raise the profile of The PAC and of Purchase College. It's an exciting time as the industry starts to feel our artistic impact!

For information about The PAC's performances this winter and spring, visit www.artscenter.org and be sure to keep an eye on your @purchase.edu email inbox for updates about discounted tickets for the Purchase community.